

The Duncan Mackenzie Place  
(Thomas Woodward Homestead)  
Province Line Road below Arneytown  
Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County,  
New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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(Thomas Woodward Homestead)  
Province Line Road below Arneytown  
Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County,  
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Owner (and occupant): Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Mackenzie

Date of Erection: (1) 1733 and (2) about 1780

Architect: Unknown

Builders: (1) Thomas Woodward (d. 1773) and (2)  
his son Thomas Woodward (d. 1782)

Present Condition: Original, well restored and  
furnished

Number of Stories: Two and one-half, garret and  
cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry  
Exterior walls - timber frame clapboarded  
in later unit; brick in earlier unit  
Interior walls - brick party wall and lath  
and plaster on studding partitions  
Chimneys - brick, built centrally on ridge  
line of later unit and in gable end  
wall of earlier unit  
Roof - gable, wood shingled

Historical Data:

The identification of this well preserved  
and carefully restored farmhouse in the southwest  
corner of Monmouth County as having been originally  
the homestead of the family of Woodward is the  
result of searches of its title through twenty-two  
transfers as found recorded in the County and  
Province archives, and is reported as follows:

By deed of 7 February 1698/9, William Dockwra of London, by John Reid his attorney, conveyed for 380 pounds to Anthony Woodward of East New Jersey a 2500 acre tract there in Monmouth County, describing it as bounded west by the partition line of the then Provinces of East and West New Jersey and on all other sides by Crosswicks Creek, and reciting the patent of 10 May 1688 of the same to grantor<sup>(a)</sup>.

Anthony Woodward<sup>(b)</sup> the grantee above-said, of Freehold Township, Monmouth County, by his deed of 9 January 1718 conveyed to Thomas Woodward "for natural love for my son, and the sum of fifty pounds" 200 acres of land and meadow in Monmouth County, "Part and parcel of that grant of land whereon said Anthony Woodward now dwelleth", describing it as bounded east by land of John Woodward, north by that of Anthony Woodward (Jr.?),

(a) Deed recorded in Liber G, p. 29, E.N.J. records; abstract of deed publ. in N.J. Archives XXI, 299

(b) Anthony Woodward, b. near Ashford, Derbyshire, 1657, came to E.I. after 1682 and subsequently to Burlington County, N.J. He married at Chesterfield Friends' Meeting on the 14th of 12 mo. 1686 Hannah, daughter of Thomas Foulkes of Chesterfield Twp. who conveyed 200 acres there to him by deed of 22 Jan. 1688/9. He was of Nottingham Twp., same Co., on 23 July 1697, the date of a patent for 300 a. on the Shrewsbury road and the so. side of Doctor's Creek, Mon. Co., to him, and by 7 Feb. 1698/9 he had removed to Freehold Twp. in that Co. He was prominent in Chesterfield Meeting, held several township offices, was a member of the General Assembly of East N.J. during the admin. of Lord Cornbury, and as a large land-owner was respected by the Proprietors of the two Provinces, they stopping at his house on travels from Burlington to Shrewsbury. He died and was buried on 16 March 1730. By his wife Hannah Foulkes, Anthony Woodward had issue: Mary b. 1-20-1688, d. 7-13-1688; Thomas, of whom further; John, Anthony, William, Joseph, Samuel, Elizabeth m. 9-13-1706 John King; Mary m. ....Maltsby; Clement and Sarah. (J.E. Stillwell, Hist. and Geneal. Miscellany, 1932, v,417).

west by the Province line and north by Blue Grass Run and John Arney's lands, and including "such Buildings and Improvements as is now made and standing on the said granted and bargained premises or any part thereof, as the same is now in the tenor and occupation of the said Thomas Woodward." Subsequently, in his will dated 29 December 1718, proved 26 March 1730, Anthony Woodward of Freehold confirmed the above granted farm "To my son Thomas Woodward, two hundred acres of land whereon he now dwells," and devised other property to his wife Hannah and their other children, John, Anthony, William, Joseph, Samuel, Elizabeth King, Mary Maltsby, Clement and Sarah(c).

Thomas<sup>2</sup> Woodward son, grantee and devisee of Anthony Woodward as abovesaid, the original owner\* of the house here considered, in his will dated 19 July 1773 and proved 30 August following describes himself as of Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, and devises to his son Thomas the plantation where he lives, in Upper Freehold and in Hanover Township, also a house and lot bought from Joseph Wright and a lot bought from John Dickinson, also cedar swamp and pine lands, requiring him to support his brother Ezekiel during lifetime and bury him afterward. Other bequests were made to the children of his son Joseph, deceased, to daughters Hannah Woodward, Deborah Wood, Mary wife of Joseph Talman, Ann Dobbins and Margaret Reynolds(d). Evidently testator was living with his son Thomas.

The brick walled unit of the house thereby devised from father to son being inscribed with date 1733 is obviously a successor or addition to that in which the testator was living in 1718 as recorded above. Possibly the frame annex of about 1780 replaced that earlier house.

(c) Abstract of Will is publ. in N.J. Archives XXIII, 523.

(\*) See stone inscribed TW<sub>1</sub> in upper end of front wall  
1753

of the brick unit. These initials are those of Thomas<sup>2</sup> Woodward and wife

(d) Abstract of Will publ. in N.J. Archives XXXIV, 598 Increase.

Thomas<sup>3</sup> Woodward<sup>(e)</sup> of Upper Freehold Township, son and devisee of the paternal homestead in 1773 as abovesaid, devised in turn, by his will dated 28 December 1781 and proved 21 February 1782, "To my son Abner Woodward all that plantation situated in Upper Freehold, bounded by the old Province Line on the West, by Apollon Woodward on the north, by a division line which formerly divided this said Plantation from that which was heretofore John Woodward's on the East, and Joseph Arney's on the South, containing 200 acres." This is obviously the same original plantation conveyed to testator's father in 1718 as above described.

Abner<sup>4</sup> Woodward of Upper Freehold Township son and devisee of the ancestral estate in 1781 by the will of Thomas Woodward as above quoted devised "unto my son Abner Woodward the residue of my homestead farm" by his will of 22 April 1825, proved 25 September following.

Abner<sup>5</sup> Woodward Jr. the son and devisee abovenamed was residing on the farm (then in Plumstead Twp., Ocean Co., \* formerly Upper Freehold Twp., Monmouth County) at the time of his will, 15 December 1858 (proved 9 April 1866) in which he authorized his executors to sell all his real estate.

By deed of 1st April 1867, the said executors conveyed to Dr. Abner Woodward, of Plumstead Township, "All the farm or plantation, lot of cedar swamp and two lots of woodland situate about a mile northwardly from the Village of Arnoytown, in the Township of Plumstead\*, containing 175.71 acres

(e) This Thomas Woodward Jr. evidently built the frame addition. One Thomas Woodward was questioned before the Council of Safety on 21 May 1777 in regard to suspicious conduct, dissatisfaction to the American cause and escape from the guard at Haddonfield. Warrant for his commitment was dated 6 June 1777. (Stillwell, cited in (b) p. 418).

\* Plumstead Twp. in Mon. Co., was created 1845 from part of Jackson Twp. which was formed 1844 from parts of Freehold, Upper Freehold, and Dover and was included in the part of Monmouth Co. set off as Ocean Co. 1850. Apparently part of Plumstead was returned to Upper Freehold Twp., Mon. Co., before 1873, as these deeds indicate.

of land ----- Being the same tract of land and Premises conveyed by Abner Woodward the elder by his will to his son Abner Woodward the younger." The consideration money was \$28,701.14. This deed is recorded in Ocean County.

By deed of even date, this grantee, Abner Woodward, M.D., and his wife Margaret, being of Plumstead Township and supposedly then occupying the house (here surveyed) sold the same "farm, cedar swamp and two lots of woodland situated near the village of Arneytown" to Israel J. Woodward of the same township, for the same money abovesaid.

Israel J. Woodward of Upper Freehold Township, who thus came into possession of the farm in 1867, constituted his estate a common trust fund to be held by his executors and trustees for twenty years, by his will dated 28 November 1879 and proved 19 December next, and ordered the property conveyed to his children at the end of that period.

Accordingly, Abner Woodward, John P. Hutchinson and Budd E. Woodward, all of Upper Freehold, the executors and trustees mentioned above, after the expiration of the trust on 6 December 1899, conveyed the tract in Upper Freehold Township to Abner, Robert E., Charles E. and Sarah E. Woodward, the four children, as tenants in common, by deed of 26 March 1900.

Three of these heirs conveyed to the fourth, Abner Woodward of Upper Freehold Township, all their undivided three-fourths interest in the 143.24 acre tract in that township, by their deed of even date with the above, describing the property as part of the real estate of Israel J. Woodward deceased, held in trust by the terms of his will.

Abner Woodward the grantee of the homestead farm, sold the same to Florence N. Reeves of Trenton on 1st October 1906, from whom it passed to Margaret Woodward of Cream Ridge\*, Monmouth County, on same date. The last named, with her husband Abner Woodward, M.D., of Upper Freehold Township, conveyed the same to

\*A hamlet lying eastward of the farm here considered.

Anna May Pemberton De Cou of Haddonfield, on 30 December 1915, and she with her husband, Clayton L. De Cou, sold it to Frederick S. Myers of Toms River on 24 February 1922. He being of Morristown passed the farm back to Clayton L. De Cou on 10 July 1924, from whom it went to Avery M. Tice and wife, of Upper Freehold, on 14 February 1927. Tice and wife conveyed it to Clayton L. De Cou and wife Priscella, of Haddonfield, on 10 January 1928, whence it passed to Sarah C. Hutchinson of North Plainfield 14 January 1928, to Lena Pontani and others 25 October 1930, and finally to Marion B. Crowell of Trenton 20 August 1931, who remained as owner at the time of our survey of the house, having married Mr. Duncan Mackenzie.

Bibliography:

Report on search of title in the Land and Probate records of Monmouth and Ocean Counties by Forrest N. Hargrove, abstractor, and in those of the Provincial Secretary (now deposited with the Secretary of State) by Oscar F. Benjamin, research editor, received 4 April 1940

*Lewis S. Cook*

Supervising Historian

Approved:

*Seymour Williams*  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer